

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**August 2010 – Week 2**

**Air Date: August 8 – August 14 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: FRENCHMAN'S REVENGE**

AUGUST 1719 A FRENCH TWIST TO A TEXAS TALE.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

AUGUST 14, 1719. LE ROCHELLE, FRANCE. OFFICER FRANÇOIS SIMARS DE BELLISLE BOARDS A NAVAL SHIP BOUND FOR LOUISIANA.

LOST, THE SHIP RUNS AGROUND NEAR GALVESTON BAY AND BELLISLE GOES ASHORE TO FIND HELP, BUT GETS LEFT BEHIND.

STARVING AND NEAR DEATH, THE FRENCHMAN IS ENSLAVED BY INDIANS. FOR OVER A YEAR, HE SUFFERS BEATINGS AND HUMILIATION BEFORE HIS WRITTEN PLEA FOR HELP REACHES A FRENCH OUTPOST AND HE IS RESCUED.

SIX MONTHS LATER, HE RETURNS, THIS TIME AS AN INTERPRETER. SHOCKED TO SEE THEIR FORMER SLAVE, NINE OF HIS CAPTORS ARE ARRESTED AND TAKEN BACK TO LOUISIANA.

BELLISLE SET SAIL ON HIS AMAZING JOURNEY 291 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT [SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG](http://SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG) OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

---

HANDBOOK OF TEXAS – BELLISLE, FRANÇOIS SIMARS DE  
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/fbe42.html>

Folmer, Henri, "De Bellisle on the Texas Coast," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly Online*, Volume 44, p. 204 (October 1940) accessed 7/18/2008

<http://www.tshaonline.org/shqonline/apager.php?vol=044&pag=210>

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Save Texas History Program

1-800-998-4GLO | [www.savetexashistory.org](http://www.savetexashistory.org) | [www.thisweekintexashistory.org](http://www.thisweekintexashistory.org)

Texas General Land Office | Communications Division | 512-475-1685